

# TO MY BELOVED WIFE HELENER PENRY,

partaker with me in this life of the sufferings of the Gospel in the kingdom and patience of Iesus Christ: And resting with me in vndowbted hope of the glory that hath been revealed: all strength and comfort, with all other spirituall graces be multiplyed through Christ Iesus our Lord.

**U**ser my blood shed for (my beloved) and so my daies and testimonies drating to an end for ought I knowe: and therefore I thinke it my dutie to leave behinde me this testimonie of my love towards so brave a sister and so loving a wife in the Lord as you have ben unto me. First then I beseech you stand fast in that truth which you and I profess at this present in much outward discomfort and danger. Let nothing drave you to be subject to maner Christ in anie of his ordinances. Let your soule and your bodie be far from those assemblies which prouide either knowne or secreete submission unto the ordinances of the beast: that is to receaue his marks either in the right hand or the forehead / as the spirit of God saith Rev. 13. 16. For this are you forbidden to doe vnder the payne of Gods eternal wrath. Rev. 14. 9. 10. 11. 2 Cor. 6. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. Den. 12. 30. 31. 32. & c. I praye (my beloved) continue a member of that holy societie wherof now you are / where the Lord in his ordinances reigneth: for here and in all such assemblies the Lord dwelleth by the presence and power of his spirit Mar. 13. 20. & 28. 20. Exod. 29. 45. Leuit. 26. 11. 12. Here he is a mightie protection and defence ready at hand I say 26. 1. & 4. 6. And his ordinances you knowe: hath he graciously comanded to be kept and observed. Pal. 119. 4. Your soules are to reioyce in these waies more then in all substance and treasure Pal. 119. 14. As to the loving kindnes of the eternall so for ever and ever towards them and cheere feed that remain vnder his ordinances to doe them. Pal. 103. 17. Whereas all those are accursed that are from his statutes and diminish from the obedience they owe vnto his Statute. Pal. 119. 31. Reu. 22. 19. Pal. 119. 118. I pray you mark these places with all such like in the word / against all those that waite a slayght matter either not to walke in the waies of God or to be subject vnto small corruptions as they accepteth them: be enarmed with the power of the word against all such lying delusions. Ioh. 2. Cor. 6. 14. 15. 17. In conclusion my dear wife and sister / loke not at any earthly thing / consecrate your selfe wholly / both soule / bodie / husband / children / and whatsoeuer you have vnto the Lord your God / let them not be dearer vnto you then his worship and service / knowe / it knowe it to be an unspeakable preferment for you / that he would safetie to take either your selfe / or anie of yours to suffer afflictions with him and his gospel here vpon earth. Luk. 18. 30. Mar. 19. 29. And I am perswaded that you have undergone the possession of the truth vpon the condition set downe by our saviour Christ. Luk. 14. 26. 27. that is to hate all in respect of his gospel. Fear not the want of outward things / for the Lord careth for you and yours. Remember what is set downe. Heb. 13. 5. Luk. 12. 31. The Lord is my God and yours / and the God of our seed. I knowe if you and our pore children continue / that they shall see a blessed reward eue in this life for these small and weak sufferings of ours for the interest and right of Christ Iesus / for I am assured that the Lord wil geve a breathing time / a comfortable rest vnto his pore Church in this life. And my good wife / if you or anie of mine live to see those daies: remeber and let my pore children remeber to declare: in vpon the vengeance of the Lord our God and the vengeance of his temple against babel: and that the Lord God hath brought forth our righteousness in rewarding that wicked antichristian religion as it hath done vnto vs. Ier. 50. 28. and 51. 19. 35. 36. and 50. 15. Reu. 18. 6. In the meane tyme wait patiently the Lords leaseure / he is not forgetful of you and yours especially of his pore Church / he cannot denie himself and the truth of his promises you know: Tim. 6. 5. So much and often in prayer day and night / much in reading and micht

tation of his word / and powe / all find that he will graunt you your hearts desire / accord-  
ing to his good pleasure will. Pray with your familie & children morning and  
euening as you doe. Instruct them and your maide in the good waies of God. Be  
that no day passe ouer your head wherein you haue not taught them (especially her) som  
one principall of the writ. Think the tyme greatly gained / as I haue often told you that  
is spent in the word of the Lord. Psal. 1. 12. Ioh. 1. 8. Amongst other places of the word  
wherin I would haue you to be conuersant in regard of these times / I pray you to read  
Mat. 10. Luc. 12. Iohn. 14. 15. 16 and 17. chapters. Psal. 37. Iay. 60. 61. 62. 63. chapters. Marke  
euerie day what petitions you make vnto the Lord / that you may haue epher strenght  
and co. for of your faith in the inspying of the things you aske and so may retorne thank-  
fulnes vnto him / w. countenance of patience in expectyng and wapyng for his mercie /  
And be not wearie in attending vpon his good pleasure / for in due tyme shall we receaue  
if we saynt not / for yet a verie litle while / and he that shall come will come and will not  
tarry. Heb. 10. 37. Whoe all things pray that the Lord would restore bewtie vnto his  
Church and so would overthrowe the cursed religio of the Romaine Antichrist in euer  
parte thereof / obseue your owne especiall infirmities and wants / and be earnest wth  
the Lord that he would doe them away / and consume them by the power of his spirit.  
Remember me also and my brethren now in bonds / that the Lord would assist vs wth  
the strenght and comfort of his spirit to kepe a good conscience and to beare a glorious  
testimonie vnto the end : pea be not void of hope / but I may be restored agayne vnto you  
by your prayers / and therefore also be earnest wth him for my deliuerance. If the Lord  
shall end my days in this testamonie / as blessed be his name howsoeuer it goeth / I am  
readie and content with his good pleasure / kepe your self my good Helen here wth this  
poore Church / you may make as good refuge and flap here as anie where else for your ou-  
erward estate / though you could not / yet I knowe that you had rather dwell vnder the  
wings of the God of Israell in povertie wth godlie faith / then to possesse kingdomes  
out of the land of Canaan / and whatsoeuer spirit you make here our poore children wth  
you that you may bring them by your selfe in the instructio and informatio of the Lord  
Ephel. 6. 4. I leave you and them indeede nothing in this life / but the blessing of my God  
and his blessed promyses made vnto me a poore wretched sinner / that my seed / my habi-  
tatio and familie should be blessed and happy vpon the earth / and this my syster I doubt  
not shall be found an ample portio both for you and them / though you knowe that in  
hunger often in could open / in povertie and nakednes we must make an accompt to pro-  
fesse the Gospell in this life. And teach them I beseech you euen now in their youth  
that lesson indeede / which was the last that I taught them in word / and that is / that  
If they will raigne wth Christ they must suffer wth him : and acquaint them now in  
their youth wth the basenes and meanes of the Gospell : each them that they are not to  
loke for great things in this life / but euerie day to make accompt that they are to yeeld  
th. pr. lyes and whatsoeuer they haue for the truth. Break their affectiones betymes  
while they are yet greene / by instructions out of the word and co.rections meet for them  
yet you knowe that parents must not be bitter vnto their children. Eph. 6. 4. respectallie  
smiter not the eld. child ouer hard / because you knowe the least word will restrayne  
her / when they are capabell of anie handie labour / knowe you will not let them be idell  
If possible you ca. let them learne / both to read and also to write / howsoeuer it be wise  
ther th. pr. bringing by be better or worse vnder your hand or vnder the hands of others  
I their father doe here charge them wth that they come to yeares of discretio as they shall  
answer in that great daie of iudgement that they ioyne themselves wth the true profes-  
sion and Church of Christ / wherein now I goe before them / the wlych charge of mine  
that they may he. pe. I beseech you my good wife to put them often in mynde of the same  
and what a blessing will ensue vnto them if they keepe it / as also what a iudgement  
will surely followe if they neglect it. Jer. 17. 8. And withal be carefull in case you should  
not be able to kepe them all wth you that they be brought by wth some of the Church  
wlych bread and water rather then be clad wth gould wth anie (howe forward soeuer  
they seeme to professe) that yeeld anie obedience vnto the antichristian ordinances / for

with such they cannot chuse but be leane'd with corruptiōs. I knowe my need. When  
after the burden whiche I late vpon thee of .4. infars wherof the elder is not .4. years olde  
will not serue anie wife burdensome vnto thee/pea thou shalt spend that our God willes  
a father vnto the fatherlesse and a state vnto the widowe.

But here my most dear sister and wife, I againe aduise you not to be a widow long  
after my dates/for you knowe the ordinaunce of God/that it is good for a man not to be  
alone/so is it a great blessing for a woman to haue an head. And although to be maried  
bringeth care and trouble with it outwardlie / yet is that holie order accompanied with  
that comfort in this life/as of all outward things I iudge it to be one of the greatest ble-  
ssings for man or woman to be married in the Lord if they cannot conuene. Onlie take  
heed in your choyse/that first he with whom you match, be of the same holy faith and  
profession with you/next that he be meet to be your head / even such a one as you thinke  
fit to gouerne you as a head and rule you as a Lord: And in this choyse looke not vnto  
welth or estimation in the world / per rather chuse many blessings then one if you may  
but onlie respect the feare of God and the meeknes of the party. This hauing sett  
vnto disburdened my self of my dutie towards you and care ouer you and your poore chil-  
dren, in some part/nowe to come vnto my selfe, I am I thank my God in great comfort  
in him though vnder great trialls of my weaknesse/ not for feare of anie flesh. I thank  
my God but in consideration of myne owne wante/ rebellion/disobediente and vnbela-  
fialnes vnto his maiestie/ but in regard of men and in respect of the cause of my GOD  
wherin I stand. I feare not anie power or strength of man/whatsoeuer and I am this  
howe most willing to laie downe my lyfe for the word of my testimonie/and I trust shall  
be vnto the end. I was taken you knowe at Watfisse the 22. of the 3. month March 1592.  
started the 24. before M. Yong committed by him close vnto the Countie Pouer: cared  
before M. Yong againe the 26. of the same month 1593. wher was D. Vaughan and his  
brother preachers both/ sent as M. Yong sayd by my Lord Keeper to confer with me. I  
answered that I reuerenced the authoritie of my Lord Keeper and the rest of her Ma-  
iesties Councel/ but as for ppybate conference/ in as much as my cause was made publick  
and that my aduersaries had my writings in ther hands/ wherby I mooued the Parle-  
ment in the cause/ I saw no reason why I should pceld vnto any. I despred publike vps  
equall conditiōs: heare after great heat vttered by M. Vaughan/ and some warmines on  
my part I was sent againe close wher nee I came. The 28. of the same month I was  
called for by M. Yong to confer with M. D. Balguy of the Temple/ wher againe I  
despred an equall trepass set downe 4. of the speciall heads / and the conditiōs/ toke a co-  
py of them/ and so departed/ after manie reasonable words given vnto me by M. Yong  
The 2. of the 5. month Aprill came M. D. Crook, M. Greenham and M. Temple vnto  
the prison to confer with me, both of christian charitie/ and also hauing authoritie ther-  
vnto as they sayd: I refused all pybate intermedling in so publick an action/ shewed them  
the things offered by me vnto M. Yong and accepted for the tyme in good parte by him/  
demanded whether they had authoritie to condescend vnto those equall conditiōs  
and so I would confer with them or with any: They sayd no: and therfor after much  
needles speech departed/ M. Temple verp inuiously taking away whether I would or  
not / the copy of that which I gave vnto M. Yong / wherof he sent me a copy the 5. of  
the same month but retained myne owne. Vpon which day I was sent for to the sessi-  
ons house wher was Syr Georg Barnes as I take it M. Yong M. Dale the Deane of  
Westminster and an other of the Clergy/ they offered me an othe which I refused because  
it was against conscience and lawe: protesting notwithstanding that I heald lawfull to  
take an othe before a magistrate: then they examined me of my going with Edward  
Graves/ I answered in deed that I lay at an inn at Godsden with him about the tyme  
then spake/ but I would goe no further to answer them in this point/ thus far but no  
further I answered herin both because they knewe of it before and especiall for some  
ther respects then moouing me. After this they dealt with me about my being in Scot-  
land

and / in the midst of which discourse they sent me away / It was playne with the  
but especially with **JD. Hoog** : Herin this is most memorabile that alleaging **Ambro**  
33. they set it downe as an article against me though I read the very words unto them  
they are so lamentable-ignorant / and lay waite for blood so cruellie that certapnlie the  
Lords hande is not far of. The Lord shew mercie vnto vs and them / from my hart  
I wish it. I cannot see but that they thirst after my blood : Therefore pray for me  
and desyre all the Church to doe the same.

To drawe to an end / salute the whole Church from me especiallie those in bonds / and  
be you all much and hartely saluted in the Lord. Let none of you be dismayed. The  
Lord will send a glorious issue to Spone troubles. Yet you must all be prepared for suf-  
ferings / I see no other likely hood : Let not those which are abroad misse to frequent  
the holy meetings : Salute my mother and yours in Wales : my brethren / sisters and  
kindred ther. And my God knoweth / pea your self knoweth howe earnestlie and o-  
ften I have desyred that he would purchasse my service in his Gospell among them  
the winning of their soules for evermore vnto him. Salute your parents and myne  
at **Wethampstone** / with my poore kinsma **Jenkin Jones** and **JD. David** also / though  
I had not thought that any outward respects wou'd have made him withdrawe his  
shoulders from the Lords wages / but the Lord will drawe him forward in his good  
time. Salute all ours in Scotland vpon the borders and every way northward / espe-  
cially **JD. Iell** / alway deare vnto me. Christ Iesus blesse thee and them all my be-  
loved even for ever and ever. Let it not be knowne vnto any save vnto the party that  
shall read this vnto you / that I have written at all as yet / I gote meanes this day  
to write this much wherof no creature living knoweth. The 6. of the 4. in mth April  
1593. in great haste with many teares and yet in the great spirituall comfort of my soul

Your husband nowe for a season / and your beloved brother  
for evermore **Ihon Denry** an unworthy witness of  
Christ's Testament / against the abhominati-  
ons of the Roman Antichrist and his  
souldners / sure of the victorie by  
the blood of the lamb.

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